

What Not to Flush (or Drain)

These are the most common household items that should never be disposed of down the drain or in the toilet:

- Medication (unless the labels says it is safe to do so)
- Paint and paint thinners, strippers, and removers
- Oven cleaner
- Grease and rust remover
- Mold and mildew remover
- Glue
- Fertilizer, pesticides, and insect killer
- Cooking oil and grease

Always read the product label for proper disposal and safe handling instructions!

The earth's water is continuously recycled as it moves through the water cycle. That means the water we use today will someday be used by someone else, so it's important to keep it clean.

Wastewater treatment plants protect water quality by removing harmful pollutants before returning water to the environment, but the treatment process isn't designed to remove everything. You can help protect water quality by knowing what not to flush, and using environmentally friendly alternatives for household cleaning.



Natural Cleaners

Looking to green your household cleaning routine? Try these natural alternatives to conventional cleaning products.

Product	Alternative
Oven cleaner	Clean spills as soon as the oven cools using steel wool and baking soda; for tough stains, add salt. (Note: Do not use this method in self-cleaning or continuous-cleaning ovens).
Glass cleaner	Mix 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water. Spray on and use newspaper to wipe dry.
Toilet bowl cleaner	Use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar. (Note: This will clean but not disinfect.)
Furniture polish	Mix 1 teaspoon of lemon juice in 1 pint of mineral or vegetable oil, and wipe furniture.
Mothballs	Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns.
Rug deodorizer	Deodorize dry carpets by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes then vacuum.

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency.

Are You Ready for Hurricane Season?

June marks the start of hurricane season, so it's a good time to revisit your family's emergency plan (or develop one) and check on your emergency kit (or assemble one). Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Your emergency kit should include enough drinking water for each family member for at least three days.
- A gallon per person per day is a good rule of thumb (don't forget pets).
- If you evacuate before a storm, turn off the water to your home at the main shut-off valve and switch off the electrical circuit breaker to your hot water heater.
- Storm damage to water infrastructure may make tap water unfit to drink. If this happens, you will need to boil your water for one minute before using it, or use bottled water.



Store your emergency supply of drinking water in a cool, dark place away from household chemicals and replace every six months.



Water Wise Lawn and Garden Tips

An estimated 50 to 70 percent of residential water use is for watering lawns and gardens. You can prevent outdoor water waste and save money on your water bill by following these tips.

- 1 Don't over water your lawn!** Watering too frequently will result in a shallow root system. Only newly seeded or sodded lawns need daily watering. Irrigate when your lawn shows signs of stress: If footprints remain for an extended period of time after walking through the grass, if the lawn has a bluish-gray color, or if grass leaves look wilted.
- 2** When you do water your lawn, do it before dawn to minimize evaporation.
- 3** Plant native species and group plants according to their watering needs.
- 4** Mulch around plants, bushes, and trees to help the soil retain moisture. Use a drip hose in plant beds.
- 5** Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent runoff.



For more information on water wise landscaping, visit Clemson Extension's web site at <http://hgic.clemson.edu> or call 1-888-656-9988.

Water ? Why

Q. How accurate are water meters in measuring water use? If my bill is unusually high, could it be a faulty meter?

A. Residential water meters are highly accurate and long-lasting, measuring between 95 and 100 percent of the actual amount of water used, depending on the flow rate.

But as meters age, they gradually become less accurate. After 12 to 15 years, a meter will tend to register an amount that's *less* than what was actually used—not more. In fact, when old meters are replaced,

customers typically see a slight increase in their water bill because the new meter is more accurate.

If you get an unusually high water bill, a leak may be to blame. Check faucets and toilets for leaks and repair them as soon as possible. Toilet leaks can be especially wasteful—a running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons a day!

If you have questions about your bill, please call our Customer Service Department at 727-6800 for assistance.

How a Water Meter Works

Water flows into the meter and enters a small cylinder-shaped chamber, which houses a disk mounted on a spindle. The chamber holds a known volume of water, so when water flows into the chamber and past the disk, the disk wobbles. Each wobble indicates a specific volume of water used. The wobbling motion is transmitted to the register by magnets inside the meter, which move the dial to indicate how much water was used.

